

## Staff Profile: Jane Lindell, Business Administrator

*This staff profile is presented so that our St. Mark's family can get better acquainted with our staff. This time we are spotlighting Jane Lindell, our Business Administrator since May 2008. Past profiles can be found on our website, [www.faith-life.org](http://www.faith-life.org), under the About/Newsletters tab.*

**Tell us a little about your childhood or growing-up years.** I was born in Iowa but lived in the Twin Cities until I was 13. My dad was a watchmaker and was recruited to work at Honeywell in the Apollo gyroscope labs in the sixties. When the space program wound down, he returned to watchmaking and we returned to Iowa. My husband, Chris, and I met in ninth grade home-room in Le Mars. We were both taking Latin from Mrs. Horneman. We've been together for 42 years and married for 37.



**How did growing up where and when you did shape who you are today?**

My mom was born in 1920 and was a teenager during the Depression. Her attitudes about work and saving shaped my brother and me. Chris worked in my dad's jewelry store as a teenager and Dad taught him a lot, including how to set a diamond and that

duct tape is good for almost everything. My brother still owns the store.

**What's a favorite memory from your childhood, youth, or young adult years?** Swimming. I lived in the pools in Minneapolis as a kid. It was a warm, indoor sport in the winters – until you had to run to the car with wet hair.

**Tell us a little about your family.** Our son Ben, is 28, married to a lovely young woman, and living in New York City. He works as an independent music producer and loves what he is doing. Our daughter, Sarah, is a sophomore at Northwestern College in Orange City. She is studying elementary education with a middle school endorsement. We have been blessed – both kids are happy, healthy, and stepping out into the world.

**Tell us about a little about your career path and how you came to be at St. Mark's.** I studied Accounting at Iowa, took the CPA exam straight out of school, and then worked for McGladrey for 10 years. I was a general manager, computer and audit efficiency specialist, and an instructor in the firm's professional continuing education program. With special training in large computer sys-

tems and with many banks, non-profits, and governmental units as clients, I travelled a lot across the country.

**Do you have hobbies, collections, or other interests?**

We moved to New Zealand in 1997 for Chris' job with Alliant Energy. I did not have a work permit so to keep busy I volunteered a lot and I started taking classes at various art centers in Auckland. I did watercolor and acrylic painting, pottery, and cast glass. I particularly enjoyed the technical challenge of glassmaking.

One of the world's most famous colored lead glass manufacturers is based in Auckland, and when we moved back to the U.S., I brought back a few hundred pounds of beautiful glass in our shipping container. From 2001-2003 I finished an Associate's Degree in Art at Kirkwood. I have a studio in our basement with two kilns, diamond saws and tools, cutting tables, and all sorts of materials for both fused glass and glass casting. Unfortunately, it has been sitting idle the last few years. But I would like to get back to it when I start working a little less.



One of Jane's fused glass pieces, in shades of blue

**Tell us about other ways that you're involved at St. Mark's.** When we returned in 2001 from living in New Zealand, Bob Brown, who lived across the street from us, invited us to St. Mark's. I served on the Church Council for five years and was on the Wednesday night food team for seven years before I started working in the office full time. I enjoyed both roles.

**What are your favorite things about living in this community?** The Cedar Rapids/Iowa City corridor is just the right size. It is large enough to have wonderful entertainment and cultural venues, and plenty of opportunities in education and employment. Yet, it is small enough to see friends and acquaintances everywhere you go.

**What are your favorite things to do when you can get a day or a few hours off?** To be honest, sleep.

**Do you have a favorite movie?** Favorite books and movies: Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*.

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## Staff Profile, cont'd.

***Where would you like to travel to that you've not been before?*** Europe. Everyone in the family has been there except me. A Mediterranean cruise would be perfect. A floating hotel that moves from port to port in Italy and Greece. I would also like to go to Israel and literally touch history by walking where Jesus walked, seeing what he saw, and being able to sit, think, pray, and soak it in.

***What is your favorite worship song?*** I particularly like the music at Impact. When I “go,” I want to have Jessy sing and the band rock out Life Worship Center with praise music.

***When or where do you feel God's presence most strongly?*** Outdoors. Feeling dwarfed by mountains or the ocean. Watching a sunset or admiring the details of plants and flowers. Taking a deep breath and quietly saying “Thank you.”

***What's something on your "bucket list"?*** Spending a day swimming with dolphins.

***What's a piece of trivia about you that very few people know?*** We are HGTV fans. Ask me about Candice Olson, not Kirk Ferentz.

***What's one phrase or thought you'd like people to think of when they think of you?*** Kind. Every year I become more and more like my mother. Some of that is good and some not so good. But “kind” is definitely the most descriptive word for her – and I'd like to own that one.

*Editor's note: The word “kind” definitely describes Jane well!*